Claims

[c1]   1.A wireless communication system, comprising:

a programmable interface coupleable between a device and a transmitter, the interface being operable to receive device data from the device and to provide user-configurable data to the transmitter; and

a programming station selectively coupleable to the interface to enable a user to program the interface to provide the user-configurable data to the transmitter.

[c2]   2.The system as recited in claim 1, wherein the device data comprises operational data of the device.

[c3]   3.The system as recited in claim 1, wherein the device data is received by the interface at periodic intervals.

[c4]   4.The system as recited in claim 3, wherein the programming station enables a user to establish the periodic interval that data is received by the interface.

[c5]   5.The system as recited in claim 1, wherein the user-configurable data comprises operational data of the device that is processed by the interface in response to programming provided by the programming station.

[c6]   6.The system as recited in claim 5, wherein the desired device data comprises a sum of operational data of the device received by the interface periodically.

[c7]   7.The system as recited in claim 6, wherein the programming station enables the wireless communication system user to reset the sum.

[c8]   8.The system as recited in claim 1, wherein the programming station comprises a computer system coupleable to the interface.

[c9]   9.The system as recited in claim 8, further comprising a cell controller and an antenna.

[c10]

10.The system as recited in claim 9, wherein the cell controller is coupled to

the computer system.

[c11]   11.The system as recited in claim 1, wherein the transmitter is a transponder.

[c12]   12.An interface for a wireless communication system, wherein the interface is operable to receive a first set of data from a device and to provide a second set of data to the transmitter, further wherein the interface is operable to enable a system user to configure at least a portion of the second set of data provided to the transmitter.

[c13]   13.The interface as recited in claim 12, wherein the interface is operable to process the first set of data received from the device, further wherein the at least a portion of the second set of data comprises data processed by the interface.

[c14]   14.The interface as recited in claim 12, wherein the interface is programmable to enable a user to provide programming to the interface to direct the operation of the interface.

[c15]   15.The interface as recited in claim 14, wherein the interface is coupleable to a programming station, the programming station being operable to provide the interface with programming to enable the interface to communicate with the device using a first communication protocol and with the transmitter using a second communication protocol.

[c16]   16.The interface as recited in claim 14, wherein the interface is operable to be programmed to communicate with a first device using a first communication protocol and then re-programmed to communicate with a second device using a different communication protocol.

[c17]   17.The interface as recited in claim 12, wherein the first set of data comprises device operating data.

[c18]   18.The interface as recited in claim 17, wherein the interface is operable to enable a user to select desired device operating data to be provided to the

transmitter.

[c19]   19.The interface as recited in claim 12, wherein the at least a portion of the second set of data is an ongoing count of a device operating parameter.

[c20]   20.The interface as recited in claim 12, wherein the interface comprises a first electrical connector configured for mating engagement with a first external electrical connector coupled to a programming system.

[c21]   21.The interface as recited in claim 20, wherein the interface comprises a second electrical connector configured for mating engagement with a second external electrical connector coupled to the device.

[c22]   22.The interface as recited in claim 12, wherein the transmitter is a transponder.

[c23]   23.The interface as recited in claim 21, wherein the interface comprises a third electrical connector configured for mating engagement with the transmitter.

[c24]   24.A method of operating a wireless communication system to enable a system user to configure device data communicated by a transmitter coupled to a device, comprising the acts of:
connecting a programmable interface to a programming station operated by a system user;
operating the programming station to configure the programming of the programmable interface to provide the device data to the transmitter in a user selected configuration; and
coupling the programmable interface between the device and the transmitter.

[c25]   25.The method as recited in claim 24, further comprising the act of transmitting a unique identifier for the transmitter with the data from the device.

[c26]   26.The method as recited in claim 24, further comprising:

reconnecting the programmable interface to the programming station; and

operating the programming station to reconfigure the programming of the

programmable interface to provide the device data in a different user

selected configuration.

[c27]   27.A method of operating a wireless communication system to enable a

system user to configure data communicated from a medical asset by a

transmitter, comprising the acts of:

connecting a programmable interface to a programming station operated by

a system user;

operating the programming station to configure the programming of the

programmable interface to provide the data to the transmitter from the

medical asset in a configuration selected by the system user; and

coupling the programmable interface between the medical asset and the

transmitter.

[c28]   28.The method as recited in claim 27, further comprising the act of

transmitting a unique identifier for the transmitter with the data from the

device.

[c29]   29.The method as recited in claim 27, further comprising:

reconnecting the programmable interface to the programming station; and

operating the programming station to reconfigure the programming of the

programmable interface to provide the data in a different configuration

selected by the system user.

[c30]   30.The method as recited in claim 27, wherein operating the programming

station comprises establishing an interval that a medical asset parameter is

to be monitored by the programmable interface.